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FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEW ALP POLICY:
'CONFERENCE NOTES THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT OF 25 JULY 1985 THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SINCE 1979 RECOGNISED DE JURE THE INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA AND WHILE IT ACCEPTS THIS REALITY IT NONE THE LESS EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN AT THE WAY IN WHICH THAT INCORPORATION PROCEEDED.

CONFERENCE REGRETS THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED ACT OF SELF DETERMINATION HAS NOT OCCURRED.

ACCORDINGLY, THE ALP CALLS ON THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES, THAT HAVE THE AIM OF ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT OF THE TIMOR PROBLEM. SPECIFICALLY, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION.

THE ALP CALLS ON THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION, AND RECOGNISING THE SENSITIVITY OF THE EAST TIMOR ISSUE OVER MANY YEARS TO OPEN UP THE TERRITORY TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND TO PARLIAMENTARIANS, TRADE UNIONISTS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS IN ORDER TO RELIEVE LONG-STANDING CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAFETY.'

THIS POLICY WAS OPPOSED BY SIGNIFICANT SECTIONS OF THE ALP, BUT THEIR RESOLUTION IN FAVOUR OF SELF-DETERMINATION WAS DEFEATED. MINI FERREIRA, REPRESENTING TIMORESE REFUGEES AT THE CONFERENCE, CRITICISED THE POLICY SAYING OIL IN THE TIMOR GAP WAS RESPONSIBLE. MICHAEL HODGEMAN, LIBERAL MP, WAS ALSO CRITICAL SAYING THE DECISION WAS MORALLY AND LEGALLY INDEFENSIBLE.

EAST TIMOR WAS THE MOST CONTENTIOUS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUE AFTER SOUTH AFRICA BUT GENERALLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE LOW PRIORITY ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA BEHIND THE ECONOMY.

KIND REGARDS

PAT WALSH
16/7/86

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